



St. Marcus Lutheran School: COVID Addendum 2021-2022

St. Marcus Lutheran School Mission Statement

To disciple children for Christ, now and for all eternity, and to train them in excellence for their roles in their family, church, community, workplace and country.

At St. Marcus, our mission is two fold. We are called to disciple our scholars for Christ, as well as train them for excellence in the roles they have in life. As we prepare for the upcoming school year, our mission continues to be our top priority. We are committed to building a Christian community of believers **AND** to providing rigorous academic instruction.

Health & Safety Guidelines

The most recent Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidance affirms our belief on how to best educate children and that is with in-person instruction. Our summer planning has focused on how to return safely to 100% in-person learning for the upcoming school year. With that said, it is still imperative to inform and encourage prevention strategies that help reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19.

Those actions include but are not limited to:

- Parents/Guardians and staff members should complete a health screening (temperature/symptom check) on a daily basis prior to coming to school.
- Staying home when sick or if anyone in the household is getting tested
- **Wearing a mask at all times**
- Physical distancing (recommendation is 3 feet)
- See below for other health and safety protocols

Symptoms of COVID

You may have COVID-19 if you have any of these symptoms:

- Cough (new onset or worsening of chronic cough)
- Shortness of breath
- Fever
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell

Not everyone with COVID-19 has these symptoms. For many, symptoms are mild, with no fever. Some people may also experience fatigue or gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or abdominal pain. You can still spread the virus to others even if you have mild or no symptoms.

Close Contact Information

Who is considered a "close contact"?

Close Contact through Proximity and Duration of Exposure:

- Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes).
 - Exception: In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) **correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time.**
 - This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

Other Health & Safety Protocols:

Ventilation

Each classroom will have a fan in the window to maximize ventilation in the school, weather permitting.

Student Snacks

All snacks brought in to share with the class should be individually wrapped. This includes birthday treats.

Temperatures

We will only be taking student temperatures if they display COVID symptoms. All students and staff should complete a daily health check before arriving to school

Cleaning

Teachers will be intentional about cleaning high touch surfaces in the classroom throughout the day. Cleaning supplies will be provided In addition, shared spaces and classrooms will be cleaned nightly.

Handwashing

Students and staff will be intentional with hand washing throughout the day, especially after being outside and before eating. Hand washing for a full 20 seconds makes a big difference in transmission of this virus! Just like dish soap cuts through grease, hand soap does the same. The "skin" of the virus has lipids (fats) and when we rub our hands together with soap we take the skin right off the virus.

Water Fountains

Students should only get water from the water fountains with a cup or water bottle.

Visitors

While we enjoy visitors, they will be asked to make an appointment with teachers or administrators prior to coming on campus/masks are required

Aftercare

All students utilizing off site aftercare must wear a mask while on the bus.

Reporting Absences

- Parents/Guardians should inform the front office via phone of a student absence no later than 9:00 AM the day of absence.
 - The following absences will be excused:
 - **Personal Illness:** Parents or guardians must call or email the office each morning by 9:00 a.m. that their child is unable to attend school because they are ill. Please indicate in this communication all symptoms your student is displaying.
 - **Known Close Contact or COVID Positive:** Please directly contact our school nurse
 - Main Campus: Jayne Heun at 414-255-6722
 - TNC and Harambee: Nancy Ortega-Rabell at (414)416-7659
 - **Death of a Relative or Family Emergency:** Parents or guardians must contact the school office to explain the situation and estimated time of absence from school.
 - **Professional Appointments:** We strongly encourage families to schedule medical, dental, legal, and other necessary appointments outside of school hours. If this is not possible, the parent/guardian must follow the same procedure to report the absence.

Sick Students at School

- If it is determined that a student should go home due to illness, they **MUST** be picked up within one hour of staff calling to notify parents and caregivers. Please have a designated person that can support with pick up if needed
- Parents or caregivers must inform the school immediately if the person in their household is diagnosed with COVID-19.

PLEASE NOTE: We are committed to staying up-to-date with the latest information from the Milwaukee Health Department (MHD). Guidance may change on a weekly basis which may alter our expectations as well. We will communicate changes in a timely manner. Thank you for helping us keep our schools a safe place.

Academic Instruction

In-Person Instruction (Monday - Thursday):

For the 1st quarter, students in K4-8th grades will learn on-site Monday - Thursday. Starting the week of November 1st, our plan is to return to 5 days of in person instruction.

Virtual/Remote Learning (Fridays):

For the 1st quarter **ONLY**, students in K4-8th grades will learn remotely (not on-site) on Friday. Virtual/Remote learning on Fridays will look different at each grade level and campus. **Your scholar's teacher or director will share more regarding expectations for these days.** All students should fully meet those expectations in order to be marked present for that day.

Unique Circumstances

Definitions (for your reference):

- *Virtual Synchronous Instruction:* Synchronous, live instruction for students who are off site.
- *Virtual Synchronous Access:* A student is able to access a live classroom via zoom but not interact.
- *Remote Asynchronous Learning:* A student is learning off-site with recorded lessons (if available) or by using materials posted on-line or sent home in packets.

During the 2021-2022 school year, virtual synchronous instruction will only be offered to students under a very limited set of circumstances:

- a. Doctor identified medical condition requiring virtual instruction.
 - i. Must be accompanied by doctor's letter and be for 10 school days or longer
- b. Whole class quarantine
- c. Snow or other emergency school closure if teachers & students are prepared for virtual synchronous instruction. Otherwise remote asynchronous instruction will take place.

Virtual Synchronous Access and / or Remote Asynchronous Learning will be offered under the following circumstances:

- a. Individual quarantine as a result of a COVID positive test result.

Students who are absent for any reason outside of those identified above will be marked absent and should access any asynchronous instruction or materials that are made available by the teacher. This includes students who are sick or travelling.

Further Details:

- Classroom quarantine: The whole class will shift to virtual/remote learning. The teacher will provide instruction to students. Please watch your email for detailed information.
- Students out sick (not due to COVID): Students will be encouraged to rest. Students must complete make-up work once they return to school.
- Travel: Virtual or remote learning accommodations will not be made for students traveling. Students will be expected to complete any make up work they've missed.

Arrival/Dismissal

PLEASE NOTE: Campus specific details regarding arrival and dismissal information (ie. entry doors/locations, late arrival procedures, early pick-ups and inclement weather plans) will be communicated by principals, directors and/or teachers during family visits, back-to-school meetings and/or via email messages.

St. Marcus Sports

All fall sports (volleyball, soccer & cross country) will take place this school year. Please watch for communication (from our Athletic Director/ Seth Kock) or reach out to him directly with questions.

seth.kock@stmarcus.org

Virtual Family Visits

You should have received communication from your scholar's/scholars' teacher and/or advisor to schedule a personal visit (either virtual or in person) prior to the school year starting.

God's blessings on the remainder of your summer! We look forward to meeting our new St. Marcus families at Back-to-School Parent Meetings. Otherwise, we will see all of our scholars for the first day of school on TUESDAY, AUGUST 17TH.

Tracy Eastburn | Harambee Campus Principal | tracy.eastburn@stmarcus.org

Erin Johnson | Main Campus Principal | erin.johnson@stmarcus.org

April Richter | North Campus Principal | april.richter@stmarcus.org

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9